

107TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 161

To establish the Violence Against Women Office within the Department of Justice.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 24, 2001

Mr. WELLSTONE introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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## A BILL

To establish the Violence Against Women Office within the Department of Justice.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Violence Against  
5 Women Office Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

7 **OFFICE.**

8 (a) OFFICE.—There is established within the Depart-  
9 ment of Justice, under the general authority of the Attor-

1 ney General, a Violence Against Women Office (in this Act  
2 referred to as the “Office”).

3 (b) DIRECTOR.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Office shall be headed  
5 by a Director (in this Act referred to as the “Direc-  
6 tor”), who shall be appointed by the President, by  
7 and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

8 (2) AUTHORITY.—The Director shall—

9 (A) report to the Attorney General through  
10 the Associate Attorney General; and

11 (B) have final authority for all grants, co-  
12 operative agreements, and contracts awarded by  
13 the Office.

14 (3) OTHER EMPLOYMENT.—The Director shall  
15 not—

16 (A) engage in any employment other than  
17 that of serving as the Director; or

18 (B) hold any office in, or act in any capac-  
19 ity for, any organization, agency, or institution  
20 with which the Office makes any contract or  
21 other arrangement under this Act.

22 **SEC. 3. DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS OF DIRECTOR OF VIO-**  
23 **LENCE AGAINST WOMEN OFFICE.**

24 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall have the fol-  
25 lowing duties:

1           (1) Serving as special counsel to the Attorney  
2 General on the subject of violence against women.

3           (2) Maintaining liaison with the judicial  
4 branches of the Federal and State Governments on  
5 matters relating to violence against women.

6           (3) Providing information to the President, the  
7 Congress, the judiciary, State and local govern-  
8 ments, and the general public on matters relating to  
9 violence against women.

10          (4) Serving, at the request of the Attorney Gen-  
11 eral or Associate Attorney General, as the represent-  
12 ative of the Department of Justice on domestic task  
13 forces, committees, or commissions addressing policy  
14 or issues relating to violence against women.

15          (5) Serving, at the request of the President,  
16 acting through the Attorney General, as the rep-  
17 resentative of the United States Government on  
18 human rights and economic justice matters related  
19 to violence against women in international forums,  
20 including the United Nations.

21          (6) Carrying out the functions of the Depart-  
22 ment of Justice under the Violence Against Women  
23 Act of 1994 (title IV of Public Law 103–322) and  
24 the amendments made by that Act, and other func-  
25 tions of the Department of Justice on matters relat-

1 ing to violence against women, including with re-  
2 spect to those functions—

3 (A) the development of policy, protocols,  
4 and guidelines;

5 (B) the development and management of  
6 grant programs and other programs, and the  
7 provision of technical assistance under such  
8 programs; and

9 (C) the award and termination of grants,  
10 cooperative agreements, and contracts.

11 (7) Providing technical assistance, coordination,  
12 and support to—

13 (A) other elements of the Department of  
14 Justice, in efforts to develop policy and to en-  
15 force Federal laws relating to violence against  
16 women, including the litigation of civil and  
17 criminal actions relating to enforcing such laws;

18 (B) other Federal, State, and tribal agen-  
19 cies, in efforts to develop policy, provide tech-  
20 nical assistance, and improve coordination  
21 among agencies carrying out efforts to elimi-  
22 nate violence against women, including Indian  
23 or indigenous women; and

1           (C) grantees, in efforts to combat violence  
2           against women and to provide support and as-  
3           sistance to victims of such violence.

4           (8) Exercising such other powers and functions  
5           as may be vested in the Director pursuant to this  
6           Act or by delegation of the Attorney General or As-  
7           sociate Attorney General.

8           (9) Establishing such rules, regulations, guide-  
9           lines, and procedures as are necessary to carry out  
10          any function of the Office.

11 **SEC. 4. STAFF OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN OFFICE.**

12          The Attorney General shall ensure that the Director  
13          has adequate staff to support the Director in carrying out  
14          the Director's responsibilities under this Act.

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